

I would like at this time to provide written testimony to the importance of this bill and to show my support.

As a parent of two children, one has an "invisible" disability I strongly support this bill.

Everyday as I watch my son get on the bus I worry about what his day will be like because he is different. I worry that I will have a son that will grow to dislike himself because he was different and kids made him feel that it is not ok to be different.

School for a child with a learning disability is a struggle in itself and worrying about if you look cool enough, have the best clothes and play all the right sports is just an additional stressor.

Bullying, being made fun of are circumstances that stay with a child throughout there lifetime. When they look back to the moment it is like looking through an old photo album.

I often receive phone calls from families that I work with looking for help because their child is being bullied and the school seems to be doing nothing to prevent any further instances. Schools need to be held accountable and teachers and staff need to take more responsibility and be held responsible for the lack of responsiveness.

I thank you and again want to say how I support S.B. 1138.

--

Tesha Imperati

CT Family Support Network

203-710-3041

scctfamilysupport@gmail.com